

SOUTH TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTERCorpus Christi
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SURVEY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

2018 Quarter 2

Released: 7/1/2018

SUMMARY

Corpus Christi's economic outlook continues to improve, according to the latest *Survey of Business Conditions*. But local business leaders remain cautious about their business, as reflected by slow hiring and capital spending.

About two-thirds (66 percent) of survey respondents saw improvement in the overall business condition during the most recent three months, compared to 54 percent in the previous survey. Favorable business conditions are expected to continue, with about 80 percent of respondents expecting their own business or the broad economy to grow over the rest of the year.

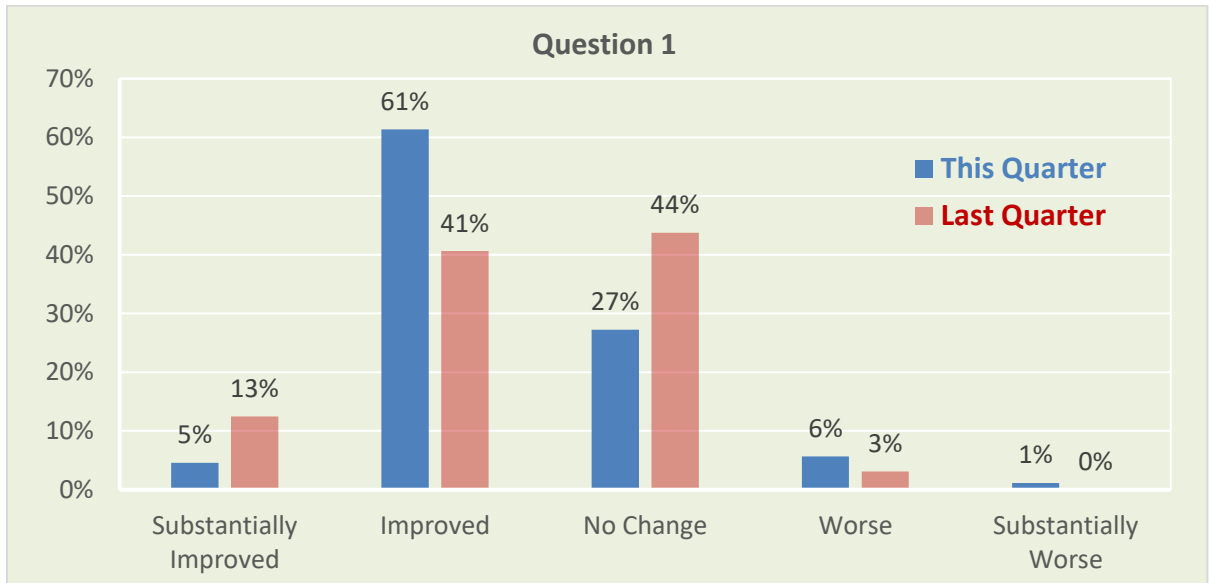
Despite an overall positive outlook, slightly less than half (47 percent) of businesses reported no hiring. As post-Harvey rebuilding activities picks up, the regional labor market seems to have become increasingly tight, especially for qualified, skilled workers. Nearly 40% of respondents expressed labor costs and availability as the top challenge facing their companies. Another 20% of respondents were concerned with weak sales conditions. A significant number of local businesses are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

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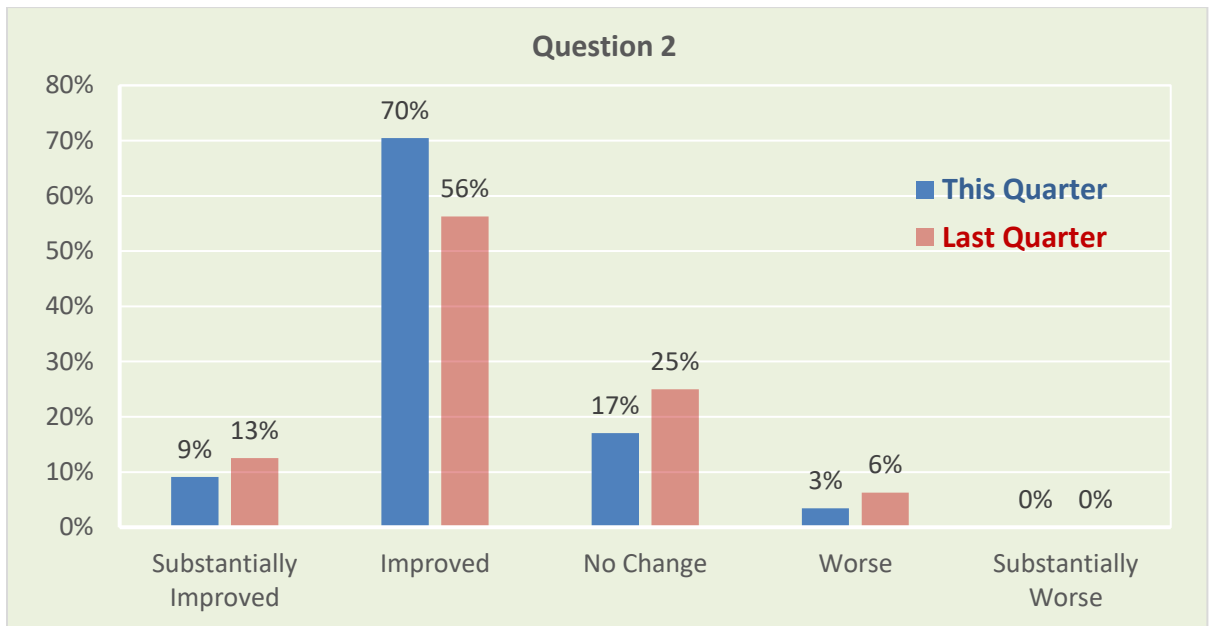
URL of the online survey: <http://tinyurl.com/stxoutlook>

Survey results are released quarterly at SouthTexasEconomy.com. This survey generated a total of 90 responses. We appreciate the time of our participants and our partners that helped distribute this survey. For questions, please contact Jim Lee at jlee@tamucc.edu.

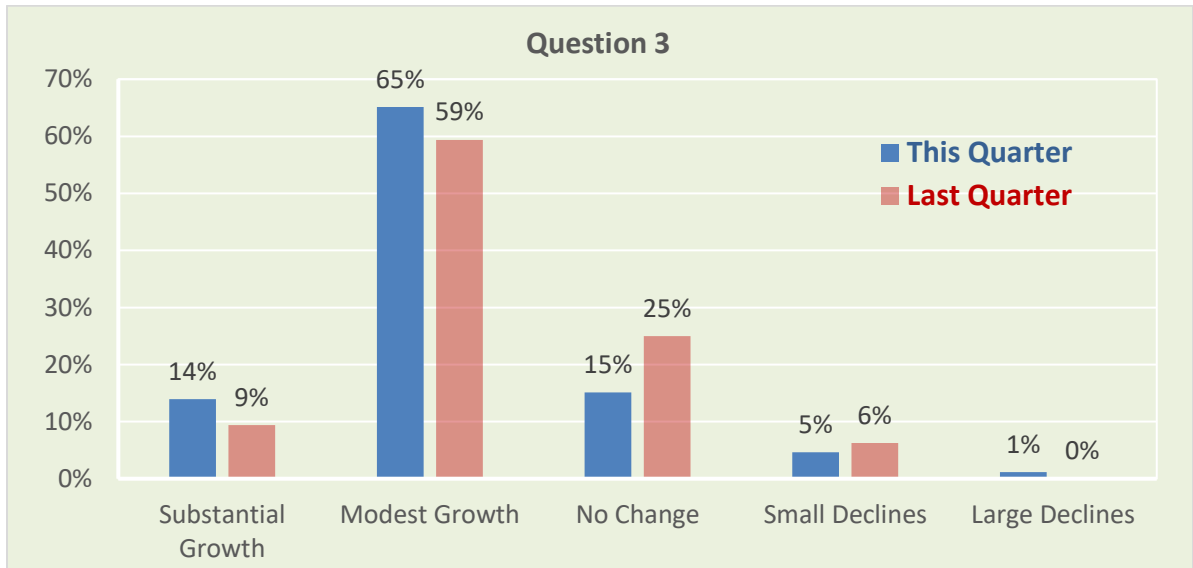
1. How have overall business conditions changed since the last time you responded to this survey (or the last 3 months)?



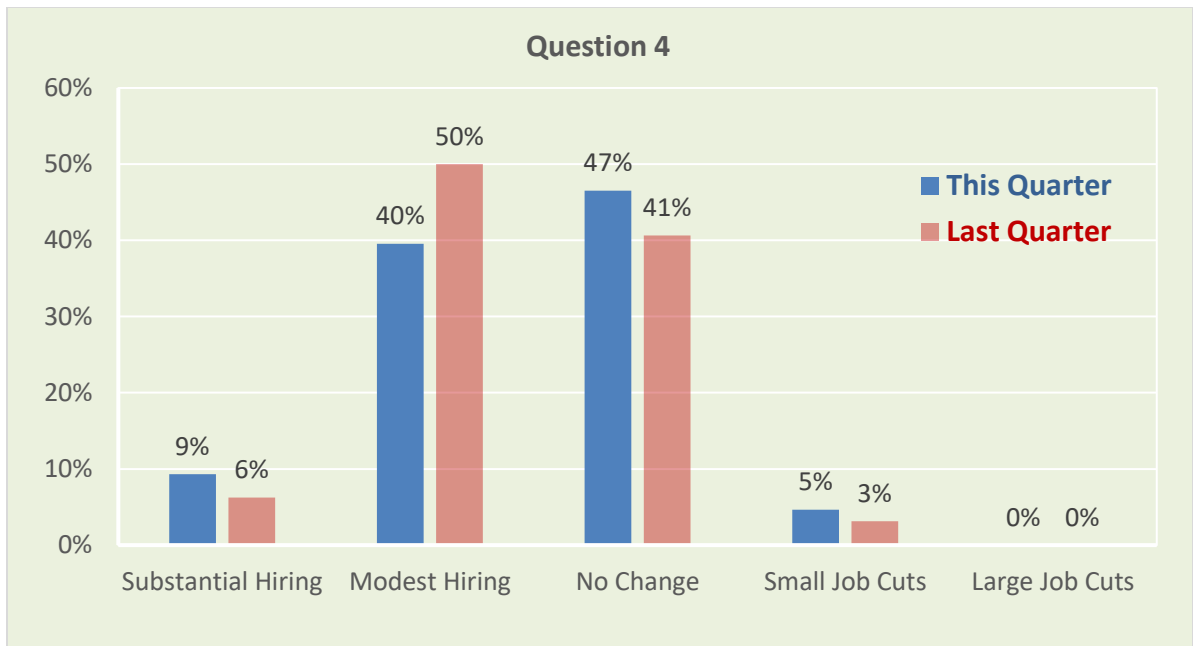
2. How do you expect overall business conditions to change over the next 6 months?



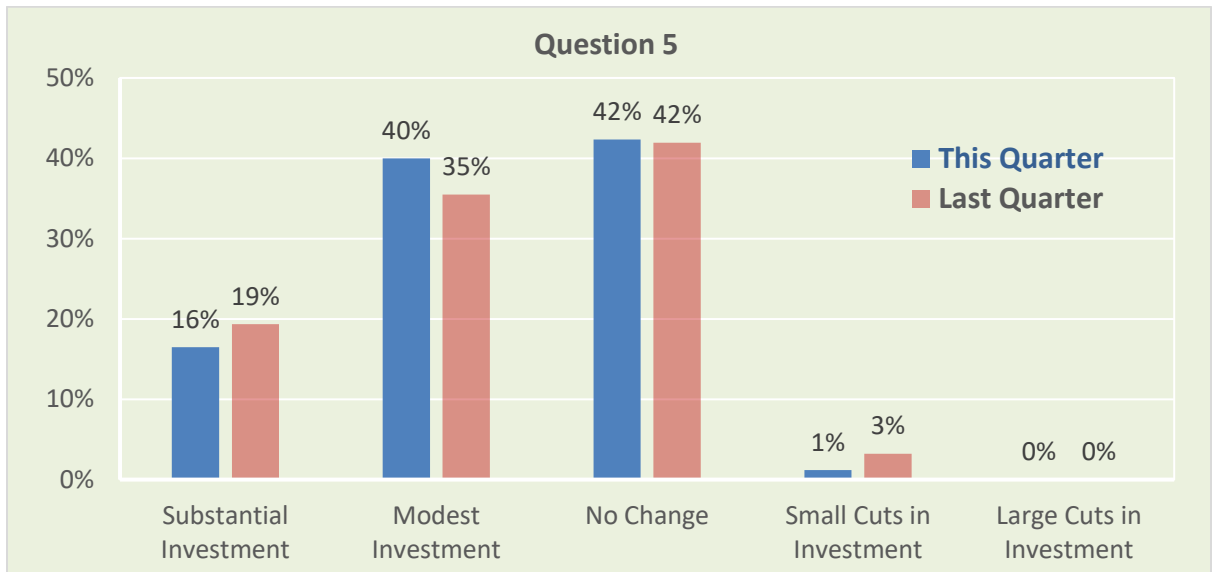
3. What changes in your company's sales or business activity do you expect over the next 6 months?



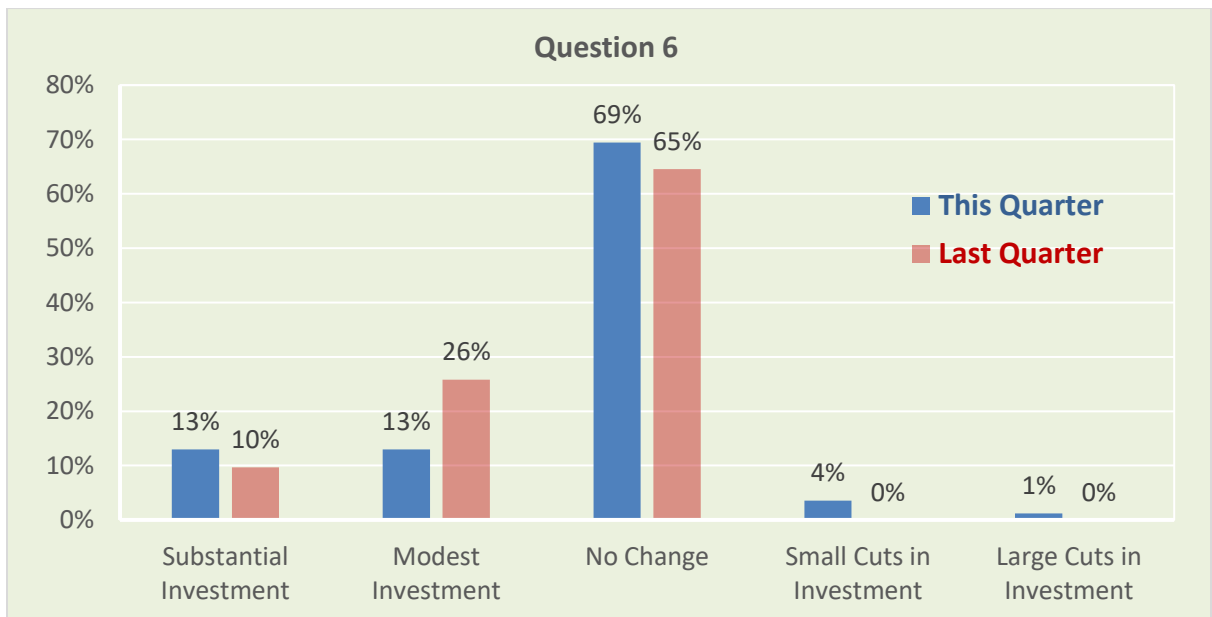
4. Is your company hiring?



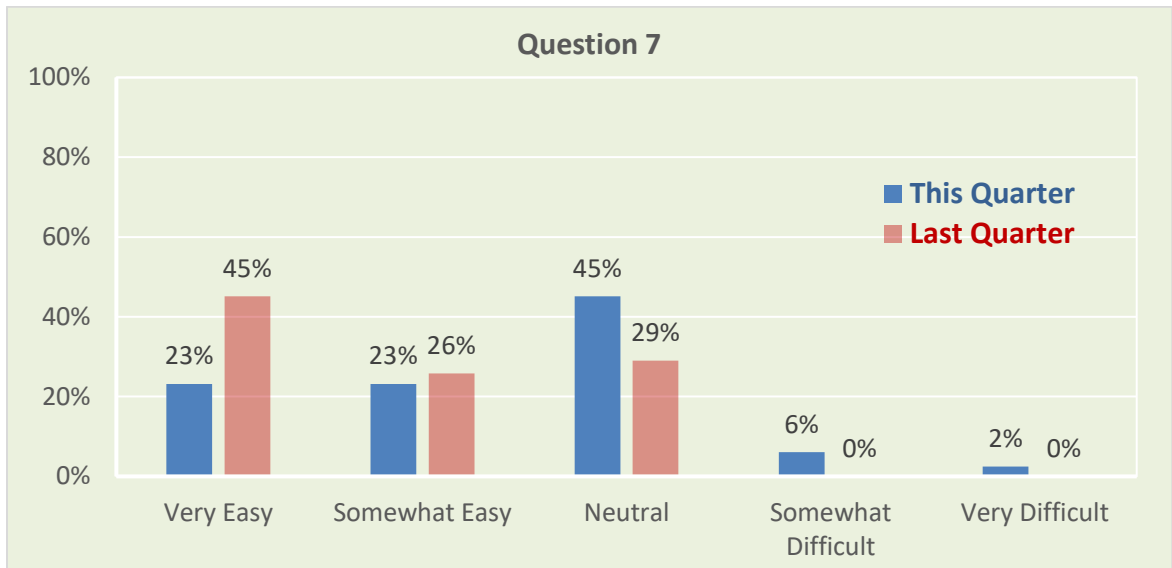
5. Is your company investing in new equipment or software?



6. Is your company investing in new office or other space?



7. How easy is it for your company to obtain financing on reasonable terms?



8. What is the most significant problem facing your company?

